

Message Text

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 OES-03 COME-00 L-03 H-02 SCS-03

EB-07 SCA-01 INR-07 DLOS-04 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00

SS-15 TRSE-00 /054 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL BELEM
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 157383

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, BR

SUBJECT:US-BRAZIL SHRIMP AGREEMENT

REF: BRASILIA 4272

1. DEPT SEES LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT GOB REQUEST THAT SHRIMPBOAT DATA ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOGRAPHS BE IN HANDS OF GOB BEFORE 15 DAY WAITING PERIOD BEGINS FOR US BOATS DESIRING TO ENTER FISHERY. IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO ADD BOATS TO LIST BETWEEN QUARTERS; THIS APPEARS TO BE ACCEPTABLE.

2. DEPT. HAS CONSIDERED, IN CONSULTATION WITH DEPT. COMMERCE, POSSIBILITY NOTED PREVIOUSLY BY EMBASSY OF REDEFINING OR EXPANDING AGREEMENT AREA. PRESENT AGREEMENT AREA WAS CAREFULLY CHOSEN TO AVOID COINCIDING WITH THE
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CLAIMED 200-MILE ZONE. MOREOVER, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT

EXPANSION COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT SOME FURTHER COST TO US, E.G. IN TERMS OF INCREASED ENFORCEMENT FEE, FOR WHICH IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN SUPPORT OF INDUSTRY OR OF THE CONGRESS. ALSO, REPORTS FROM THE FISHERMEN INDICATE THAT CATCHES MAY BE IMPROVING IN AGREEMENT

AREA AND IF SO THIS SHOULD REDUCE NEED FOR VESSELS TO SEARCH FOR DIFFERENT AND BETTER FISHING GROUNDS OUTSIDE THE AGREEMENT AREA. IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE PRESENTLY EXISTS FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES A BUFFER AREA BETWEEN AGREEMENT AREA WHERE US VESSELS OPERATE AND GROUNDS WHERE BRAZILIAN FISHERMEN OPERATE SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES FURTHER SOUTH. WE SEE SOME ADVANTAGE IN KEEPING THIS SITUATION INTACT AS IT MAY SERVE TO HELP AVOID POSSIBLE FRICTION AND RESENTMENTS RESULTING FROM THE TWO FLEETS BEING IN CLOSE CONTACT. WE NOTE LATEST SIGHTING OUTSIDE AGREEMENT AREA, AND WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN BACKGROUND OF CAYENNE SARITA'S APPARENTLY RECURRING INTEREST IN THE ZONE IN QUESTION. IF INCIDENTS CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE, WE BELIEVE SITUATION SHOULD BE REASSESSED BUT -- IN THE LIGHT OF CONSIDERATIONS ENUMERATED ABOVE WE HESITATE AT THIS TIME TO INITIATE MOVES FOR CHANGE IN AGREEMENT AREA.

3. ON RELATED QUESTION, DEPT. HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES THAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF JAPANESE VESSELS HAVE BEEN FISHING IN AGREEMENT AREA AND THAT THIS IS CAUSING SOME RESENTMENT IN US-FLEET, WHICH IS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT JAPAN DOES NOT HAVE AGREEMENT WITH GOB. DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY EXPLORING IN INFORMAL; LOW-KEY MANNER WHETHER GOJ-GOB AGREEMENT EXISTS OR WHETHER THERE IS SOME JOINT-VENTURE OR PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH JAPANESE BOATS MAY HAVE. (GOB INDICATED TO USDEL IN FEB THAT THERE WOULD BE NO GOJ-GOB SHRIMP AGREEMENT.) INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, SHELLFISH, SHRIMP, FISHING BOATS, FISHING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE157383
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: OFA /FA B.S.HALLMAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750232-0506
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750786/aaaaczjb.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OFA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BRASILIA 4272
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: S-BRAZIL SHRIMP AGREEMENT
TAGS: EFIS, BR, US
To: BELEM BRASILIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006